

CAIGE Meeting

August 7, 2003

- Welcome and Introductions given by Michael Monroe.

- Updates:

- A. EAC Update given by Melinda Mathias – all participating counties met June milestones. DHEC is compiling a list of strategies, organizing and categorizing those submitted. Determining strategies that can be quantified and working with other states to assist in calculating emission reductions. The next EAC milestone is the submittal of DRAFT Local Early Action Plan by August 27, 2003.

- B. Resolution – Michael (copies distributed) – The charge of this committee was somewhat validated as result of resolution (H3914).

- Action Items:

- A. Baseline Survey Tools for State Agencies – Discussed developing a tool to collect info regarding what agencies already have in place (i.e., policy, programs). May need to provide terms and include definitions to ensure consistency. It was suggested we identify key areas and suggest agency commit to key policy/program. Tool should identify a contact person. Tool could be a survey to determine what are you currently doing (give examples)? If not, would you be willing to implement “suggested” program(s)?

ACTION: DHEC will develop short, DRAFT tool and will send to CAIGE for input. Will provide tool to EAC contacts for possible distribution within local area.

- B. Draft Policy – draft provided to committee – Has been provided to Assistant Deputy for EQC have not received feedback. Other agencies may be interested in adopting similar policy.

- C. Chad – Clean Air and Climate Protection Software – Recently attended training in Atlanta. Originally done for GHG emissions - gives environmental impact. Training provided by International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) out of California. DHEC interested in additional training. Might be offered to other CAIGE members and/or local EAC. Uses 2 models. 1 - current level of emissions; 2 – level emission dependent on changes/implementation of different strategies; allows you to see environmental benefits. Track cost savings. Does include national defaults. Version 6 of software. 2 cities in SC are part of GHG emissions inventory. They are Charleston and Georgetown. Small cost.

- Future Direction:

- A. Additional updates/issues – Tricia – Clean Cities finally approved – eligible for competitive funding – Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition (9 counties). Designation – If additional counties join new approval should not be needed. Possible celebration in November in Columbia. “Best written plan to date”.

- B. Inform & request participation from EAC contacts –Our goal is to focus on state agencies however we should “lead by example” and it might be helpful to provide information to local areas.

- C. Next meeting scheduled for September 25th at 2:30.

April 30, 2003 2:00 pm

Attending:

Lori Johnson (DHEC), Michael Monroe (DHEC), Melinda Mathias (DHEC), Frank Cramer (DHEC), Jeff McCormack (B&CB State Fleet Management), John Gardener (SC DOT), LeAnn Herren (USC/Clean Cities), Tricia Tangney (Energy Office), Henry Phillips (DHEC), Tonya Lott (DHEC), Tommy Fallow (B&CB OGS) Michelle Ransom (Central Midlands COG), Don Tudor (Dept. of Education), Marshall Casey (Dept. of Education), Wendy Bell (Catawba COG), David Burgess (SC DOT).

Discussion:

Update on the Executive Order. Hold due to Joint Resolution. The Joint Resolution was passed from the AG Subcommittee of the House. Now back to the House it goes ...

Melinda Mathias gave an update on the Ozone Early Action Plan.

Frank spoke on his finding with the GA State Prison System Environmental Initiative. A few basic 4 steps: 1) Study the prison. There is a lot you can do with conserving water and electricity. 2) Education and assessment input. Most of the ideas came from employees. Currently they use natural gas but looking into wood fuel (though its dirtier). They also did lots of lighting retrofits by partnering with their Energy Office. They also installed low-flow faucets. Possible to get our prison(s) involved with something similar. Could partner with our Energy Office for a loan. SC's Energy Office does energy audits for state entities (including schools and non-profits).

LeAnn Herren mentioned Capsugel. These are reused clear garbage bags that the prison crews use to gather garbage. LeAnn mentioned that our Dept. of Corrections could be a good pilot for any thing we come up with. She was going to look into finding some names/contacts.

Michael began the discussion on the Texas Adopt-A-School bus Program. Could this be a good idea for SC to try? In Texas's program they include an anti-idling policy that states that busses may not idle for more than 15 minutes.

Don Tudor mentioned that there is already an idling policy for SC that says that a bus cannot be idling unless someone is sitting in it, and that busses are not to idle while waiting on children. Go to <http://www.myschools.com/offices/trn> then click on Information - then memorandum...it is somewhere there. Don also mentioned that this type of program works best in large urban areas with large corporations who will buy into it...he did not seem to believe that the Columbia area was large enough. If it is done, there must be a non-profit involved to handle the money (American Lung Assoc. or something like it). You can accomplish more by replacing the busses instead of retrofitting them. A retrofit can cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$12,000. Only 1999-2000 model busses have true electronic control (most capable for retrofit). A new CNG bus costs about \$120,000. A diesel bus costs around \$60,000. A hybrid bus costs about \$600,000 – NYC is currently testing them (part of a CARB study relating hybrids to

diesel/fuels). EPA now has grant money for school busses. A NC/SC proposal is in the works. It is a multi-state project for approximately \$20 million. The bigger a project, the better.

A *DRAFT* of an Air Pollution Reduction Policy was passed out. It is an example of how DHEC and other agencies can be proactive and lead by example.

Tommy mentioned the rules/guidelines that their office is working on. There is a study on landscape designs for Energy Efficiency (E2). It is mostly for residential areas – it would be good try to integrate some of it for state agency use, or make one of their own. The grounds keeping sections will try to be ozone responsive. Currently right now all equipment is mostly 2-cycle – will try to purchase cleaner burning equipment in the future.

David from the SC DOT mentioned putting together a vanpool for state employees who travel downtown. They will distribute a survey to all state agencies to gather their information. This will be a pilot project and wanted to share ideas with our TABFTE program. They also plan to look at HOV lanes in SC.

DSS currently has a telecommuting program. We should include DSS in our group. They used funding from the SC Energy Office to assist their program.

02/26/03

Attending: Michael Monroe, Jack Porter, Lori Johnson, LeAnn Herren, Jeff McCormack, Tricia Tangney.

- 100 of 4000 SC school busses are fueled by gas, the rest are diesel.
- Jeff is going to look into the cost of bio-diesel.
- DHEC staff will research more into the 'adopt-a-school bus' program and share with group. (A company will pay to retrofit a school bus. It is good publicity for them and may be a write-off.)
- Ex Order – Mike Rowe has indicated that an environmental contact for the Governor's Office has not been identified as of yet. The drafted concurrent resolution has been revised. Michael will get this revised resolution out to members. We need to consider several options beyond the resolution and the executive order for encouraging state government to pursue for reducing emissions.
- The Energy Office is supportive of what we are doing and the language contained in the executive order.
- LeAnn sent a copy of the draft executive order to the Environmental Action Committee at USC – they love the Ex Order but said 'good luck'.
- Tricia is going to check with a staff person in the Governor's Office to try and determine what the process will be for requesting executive orders.
- Jeff stated that we should ask for as much as we want in the document – it probably will be cut back.
- We must be careful that the Ex Order is not perceived as an unfunded mandate during the current fiscal situation.
- Both draft documents may offer a chance to educate legislatures and get our foot in the door.
- Jeff mentioned that even without the Ex Order/Joint Resolution, we can still do this on a voluntary basis...it can still work.

- We may need to figure a way to gather data (establish a baseline) from other agencies to determine what programs/projects they are already doing that benefits air quality (e.g., DHHS – telecommuting, etc.). This could be done through a survey (Results could be tabulated into a Clean Air Report Card – how does your agency contribute to cleaner air?)
- Tricia mentioned a person at their office that does presentations on a project called the other 5%, it conveys information regarding simple things people can do to conserve energy... it is a way for the Energy Office to promote other programs. (Possible topic a future “Air it Out” program).
- _ Loan Program for purchasing more energy efficient equipment- Tricia stated that she can provide us with more information about this program. Perhaps the CAIGE may help promote it.
- _ Million Solar Roofs
- _ Rebuild SC
- _ Etc.
- The Energy Office also has quantified all their savings.
- We need to find the right people at these agencies (make a list).
- Maybe send out a possible newsletter.
- Start with big agencies (i.e., large numbers of staff) first.
- LeAnn mentioned the Dept. of Corrections in GA. They have been taking a big lead in protecting the environment. She is going to look into finding a contact so that we may learn more about their initiatives.
- During this time people will do anything to save money.
- Jeff is going to try to get in touch with Dennis Haigler – he was working on building maintenance guidelines. We are interested in these.
- We could make a list to give to other agencies that says that DHEC would like you to consider...purchasing electric equipment, etc.
- Check with Sustainable Universities Program to find out contact in colleges/universities in SC to get them involved and find out what they already do.
- There is a “fuel-buying network”. This is a mechanism for purchasing fuel in quantities to help reduce costs. It is voluntary for agencies. USC is not a part of this network.
- **A future meeting was not scheduled at this time. DHEC members of the workgroup will plan to research information and distribute to the group. At that time, a future meeting will be scheduled.**

February 12, 2003

Attending: Lori Johnson (DHEC), Michael Monroe (DHEC), Bob Martin (DHEC), Melinda Mathias (DHEC), Frank Cramer (DHEC), Donna Culbreath (DHEC), Jeff McCormack (B&CB State Fleet Management), Tom Dodds (SC DOT), John Gardener (SC DOT), LeAnn Herren (USC/Clean Cities), Mitch Perkins (Energy Office). Melinda Mathias gave an update on the 8-hour Ground-Level Ozone Standard and the Early Action Plan. (“Cleaner Air Sooner” handout).

Michael Monroe spoke about the Bureau of Air Quality (DHEC)internal workgroup’s

charge in the matter.

Bob Martin talked about the E-85 station here at DHEC. He passed out an informative brochure. Jeff McCormack shared that they are looking at adding another E-85 station at SCANA (Flora Street). Jeff also has some data that shows who uses E-85. He is going to get this information to us. He also has a survey that he is going to get to us that will tell us where every alternative fuel vehicle is in SC by zip code.

Brandy Petroleum (Pitt Stop fuel stations) may begin carrying E-85. Jeff told us that he has a letter drafted to go out this week about it. So, we may have some commercial E-85! Regional Transit Authority now owns and operates the trolley system. (Tricia Tangney, Margaret? from the Energy Office have good contacts with the RTA).

A suggestion regarding the development of “park and ride” lots and advertising them was offered. Another suggestion was offered pertaining to the school bus fleet owned by the SC State Department of Education and retro-fitting them to run cleaner. USC is pilot testing bio-diesel buses on campus and once their data is in, it may be useful to share with Don Tudor at SDE.

Leann Herren is going to put some of the CAIGE information in their Clean Cities newsletter.

Mention was made of ascertaining information about the alternative fuels usage at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport for their equipment.

Passed out the drafted Executive Order and Joint Resolution. Participants were asked to provide comments on Executive Order, at least prior to the next meeting data.

Next Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 2/26/03 at 2:00.